

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Youth Hostel is a joint venture of the Central and State Governments. State Governments are required to provide fully developed plot of land, free of cost measuring 1.5 to 2 acres for construction of youth hostel. The Government of India takes care of the construction of Youth Hostel. The Department has not received any proposal from Delhi Government for construction of Youth Hostel at Delhi.

[English]

Indians in Yemen

4667. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received on the pathetic conditions of Indians employed in Yemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has received a representation from a group of Indians in Yemen.

(b) The representation raises several issues relating to non-payment or irregular payment of salaries, non-adherence to contractual obligations, conditions of work and non-release by the employers.

(c) The Embassy is under instructions to make every effort to redress grievances through all available means, including intervention with the employers and the local authorities.

Passports Pending in RPO, Delhi

4668. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications submitted during February, 1996 in Regional Passport Office, Delhi and the number of applications pending and the reasons for delay;

(b) the maximum time within which police verification is to be completed and the action to be taken in regard to issue of passports in cases of applicants for whom police verification is not done within the time;

(c) the action taken in cases, where Deputy Secretary has certified the character and antecedents of an applicant and police verification also done at permanent place of

residence while it is awaited from the places of temporary residences; and

(d) the number of such applications lying pending for the issue of passports with RPO, Delhi since February 1996?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) (i) The number of passport applications submitted during February, 1996 in Regional Passport Office, Delhi: 11171

(ii) Number of these applications still pending: 819

Delay in issue of passports is normally due to reasons like receipt of negative or incomplete reports from concerned police authorities, discrepancies in documents submitted by the applicants particularly in respect of applications received by post, lack of response from applicants who are asked to submit additional documents.

(b) Passports are normally issued on receipt of clear police verification reports or on expiry of 4 weeks from the date of making such a reference to the police whichever is earlier and on a first come first served basis. The endeavour of a Passport Office is to issue passports in a period of about one month.

(c) On the basis of a Verification Certificate issued by an officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above, a short validity passport can be issued even in the absence of receipt of the police verification report.

(d) The number of such applications pending since February 1996 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance to Bhutan

4669. SHRI R.B. RAI:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has been assisting Bhutan financially and materially; and

(b) if so, the details of financial and material assistance rendered to Bhutan by the Government of India during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year-wise details of financial and material assistance rendered to Bhutan by the Government of India during the Eighth Five Year Plan of India are as follows:

1992-93	Rs. 53,90,81,789/-
1993-94	Rs. 65,00,78,702/-